

Central Texas Regional Food Systems Collaborative

Identity Statement

Our vision...	a healthy, equitable, economically thriving and environmentally sustainable regional food system.
We acknowledge...	that the inequities and disparities present in our current regional and national food system are the result of both historic and ongoing systems of oppression.*
Our mission...	to sustain a diverse network that fosters engagement, alignment and action among the people and organizations advancing equity and sustainability in our region's food system.
Our Core Values...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Environmental Sustainability. We believe in a food system that preserves and strengthens ecological health and well-being in Central Texas and beyond, both at present and for future generations. · Health. We believe availability, accessibility, adequacy, acceptability and agency of health and health care resources are critical to the nourishment and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. · Equity. We believe in a food system that is racially, culturally and geographically equitable for producers, workers and consumers. · Connectedness. We believe relationships built on trust are essential for working collaboratively and honoring community voice in the food system. · Thriving Economies. We believe in a thriving economy that centers worker safety and dignity.
Our Guiding Principles...	<p>Respect. We honor the basic dignity of every person and support relationship building as a means to overcome challenges and disagreements.</p> <p>Collaboration. We commit to working collectively to achieve aligned impact. We will foster open communication and deep listening as we work together to achieve our shared goals. We will work transparently and openly.</p> <p>Inclusion. We are committed to addressing the power dynamics within our Collaborative and within the food system; we support those who lack</p>

	<p>power in our current food system; we aim to build trust with partners from across the region; and we will include and elevate those whose voices are underrepresented in our regional food system. We will hold ourselves accountable to the communities we work with and the region we serve.</p> <p>Data-Informed. We will leverage data and technology to make transparent and informed decisions and to determine benchmarks to hold ourselves accountable for our progress.</p> <p>Adaptation. We are open to making mistakes and willing to course correct through an iterative and emergent approach. We are committed to adapting our processes to match what the community needs.</p>
In (geography)...	The five-county Austin metropolitan statistical region including Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties.
We serve (who)...	<p>We are focused on ensuring that our work helps address the needs of people who are and have been negatively impacted by the Central Texas food system.</p> <p>We do this work by engaging representatives from each part of the regional food system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Farming & Food Production ● Food Distribution & Processing ● Food Marketing, Markets & Purchasing ● Food Recovery & Food Waste ● Technical Assistance providers and food incubators ● Funders ● Researchers, Policymakers and Advocates ● Social and Education service providers

**Such as but not limited to, slavery, colonization, indigenous genocide, segregation, exclusionary immigration policies, mass incarceration, and institutional racism.*